

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 08774 01 OF 03 160815Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /097 W

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R 150934Z NOV 77 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3739

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

USINT HAVANA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LUBUMBASHI

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 3 LISBON 8774

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, AO

SUBJ: UNITA LEADER SAVIMBI INTERVIEWED IN KINSHASA

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PAGE 02 LISBON 08774 01 OF 03 160815Z

REF: LISBON 8203 (DTG 211747Z OCT 77)

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

SUMMARY: IN AN EXCLUSIVE MID-OCTOBER INTERVIEW, UNITA  
PRESIDENT JONAS SAVIMBI SAID ALL CONTESTING GROUPS IN  
ANGOLA EVENTUALLY WOULD HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER TO SOLVE

ANGOLA'S PROBLEMS. WHILE RECOGNIZING THE NEED TO TALK WITH THE MPLA, HE REJECTED TALKS WITH PRESIDENT NETO. IN A DEPARTURE FROM PREVIOUS STATEMENTS, SAVIMBI DID NOT SET ANY PRECONDITIONS FOR TALKS WITH THE MPLA, BUT IMPLIED THAT THE TIME FOR A DIALOGUE IS NOT YET RIGHT. END SUMMARY.

1. THE PORTUGUESE RIGHT-WING WEEKLY "O DIABO" PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 8 AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH UNITA PRESIDENT JONAS SAVIMBI. THE INTERVIEW WAS OBTAINED IN THE THIRD WEEK IN OCTOBER IN KINSHASA. THE FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE INTERVIEW:

2. DIALOGUE WITH THE MPLA: QUERIED ABOUT ANGOLAN FOREIGN MINISTER PAULO JORGE'S REJECTION OF TALKS BETWEEN THE MPLA AND ITS ENEMIES (REFTEL), SAVIMBI REPLIED THAT UNITA'S OPINION AS EXPRESSED IN ITS FOURTH CONGRESS ACKNOWLEDGED THE PRESENCE OF SOME "SOUND INDIVIDUALS" IN THE MPLA. THEREFORE, UNITA WAS NOT TRYING TO DESTROY THE MPLA. UNITA WAS THINKING ABOUT THE ANGOLA OF TOMORROW, WHEN THE FNLA, THE MPLA, UNITA, AND "OTHER PATRIOTIC ORGANIZATIONS" WOULD HAVE TO FIND A COMMON SOLUTION FOR COMMON PROBLEMS. ANGOLA COULD NOT REMAIN IN PERPETUAL WAR. UNITA, THROUGH ITS ARMED STRUGGLE, WAS PROMOTING THE CONDITIONS NECESSARY TO WHAT SAVIMBI TERMED "THE EVENTUAL NATIONAL DEBATE OVER COMMON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LISBON 08774 01 OF 03 160815Z

METHODS AND OBJECTIVES, AND HAPPINESS FOR THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE."

3. BUT NOT WITH NETO: SAVIMBI SAID THERE ARE INDIVIDUALS IN THE MPLA WITH WHOM HE WOULD NEVER AGAIN TALK, NAMING PRESIDENT NETO AND SENIOR MPLA MEMBERS LUCIO LARA, IKO CARREIRA, AND PAULO JORGE. SAVIMBI IS CERTAIN THAT NETO WILL ASK TO TALK WITH HIM, BUT DECLARED, "I CAN GUARANTEE YOU THAT WE WILL HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH HIM."

4. UNITA'S STRATEGY: UNITA SEEKS THROUGH GUERILLA WAR TO DEMORALIZE THE MPLA, SAVIMBI SAID. LITTLE BY LITTLE, THE "CUBAN IMPERIALISTS" WILL BE ISOLATED IN FORTIFIED VILLAGES. ONE DAY UNITA WILL BECOME SO STRONG THAT THE MPLA GOVERNMENT WILL FALL. SAVIMBI DOES NOT THINK THERE WILL BE A CHANGE IN MPLA POLITICAL STRATEGY, AND IS NOT TRYING TO EFFECT IT. WHAT UNITA SEEKS IS TO ADVANCE BY STEPS UNTIL THE LUANDA REGIME IS DEFEATED.

5. COOPERATION WITH THE FNLA: ASKED ABOUT RELATIONS

WITH THE FNL A AND THE POSSIBILITY OF MILITARY COOPERATION  
BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS, SAVIMBI SAID THAT ALL THOSE WHO  
ARE READY TO FIGHT ARE ALLIES. IF THE FNL A IS CAPABLE  
AS A COMBATIVE FORCE, A WAY COULD BE FOUND TO COOPERATE.

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PAGE 01 LISBON 08774 02 OF 03 160817Z  
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 3 LISBON 8774

BUT EVEN IF THE FNL A IS INCAPABLE OF FIGHTING, THE  
MOVEMENT WOULD HAVE TO HAVE A VOICE IN A FUTURE ANGOLAN  
GOVERNMENT.

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PAGE 02 LISBON 08774 02 OF 03 160817Z

6. RELATIONS WITH MPLA DISSIDENTS: ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY "UNDERSTANDING" BETWEEN UNITA AND MPLA DISSIDENTS GENTIL VIANA AND MARIO AND JOAQUIM PINTO DE ANDRADE, SAVIMBI REPLIED THAT UNITA HAD ALWAYS ENJOYED GOOD RELATIONS WITH THEM, AND CURRENTLY HAS "CERTAIN CONTACTS" EVEN WITH INDIVIDUALS ASSOCIATED WITH THE MAY 27 COUP LEADER, NITO ALVES. HOWEVER, SAVIMBI DENIED HAVING HAD ANY CONTACTS WITH VIANA AND THE PINTO DE ANDRADE BROTHERS SINCE UNITA LEFT LUANDA.

7. SOUTH AFRICA AND SWAPO: SAVIMBI REITERATED HIS DENIAL THAT UNITA RECEIVES HELP FROM SOUTH AFRICA, AND DENIED THAT UNITA WAS FIGHTING SWAPO IN ORDER TO ASSIST SOUTH AFRICA IN NAMIBIA. IT WAS UNITA, SAVIMBI CLAIMED, THAT ASSISTED SWAPO DURING THE EARLY DAYS OF THE LATTER'S ARMED STRUGGLE. SAVIMBI ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SWAPO DEPENDED FOR ITS SUPPLIES ON PORTS CONTROLLED BY THE MPLA, BUT SAID UNITA WAS COMPELLED TO DEFEND ITSELF WHEN SWAPO TURNED ON UNITA. UNITA WOULD CONTINUE TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST ANY ATTACK BY SWAPO.

8. THE BENGUELA RAILWAY: ASKED IF OPENING THE BENGUELA RAILWAY WAS THE PRICE UNITA WOULD HAVE TO PAY FOR ZAMBIAN SUPPORT, SAVIMBI SAID, "I WANT TO SIMPLY RESPOND THAT THE BENGUELA RAILWAY WILL NEVER AGAIN FUNCTION" AS LONG AS THE MILITARY AND POLITICAL SITUATION REMAINS THE SAME. WHOEVER FELT WRONGED BY THIS POLICY WAS AGAINST UNITA.

9. U.S. RECOGNITION OF THE NETO GOVERNMENT: ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE REPORTED REVIEW BY THE USG OF ITS ANGOLAN POLICY, SAVIMBI REPLIED:

"AT THE MOMENT WHEN THE MPLA FEELS COMPLETELY  
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PAGE 03 LISBON 08774 02 OF 03 160817Z

DEMORALIZED AND WHEN THE MORALE OF THE CUBAN AND MPLA SOLDIERS IS QUITE DEPRESSED; WHEN THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES HAVE REALIZED AFTER ALL THAT THE PRESENCE OF CUBANS IN ANGOLA NOT ONLY REPRESENTS A THREAT TO THE TERRITORY, BUT ALSO REPRESENTS A REAL THREAT TO INDEPENDENCE ACQUIRED BY SWEAT AND BLOOD; WHEN AFRICAN COUNTRIES ARE NO LONGER AFRAID TO SUPPORT UNITA; WHEN THE MPLA PROVED WITH THE INVASION OF SHABA THAT THE CUBANS WERE IN ANGOLA TO DESTROY OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND

NOT ONLY TO SUPPORT AGOSTINHO NETO; WHEN THE WAR BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA REVEALS THIS SAME DANGER; WHEN CUBANS ARE FOUND IN THE SAHARA; WHEN THE CUBANS TODAY MAKE UP THE 'PRETORIAN GUARDS' FOR MANY UNPOPULAR REGIMES IN AFRICA -- IT WOULD BE A SHAME IF THE UNITED STATES WERE TO RECOGNIZE THE MPLA GOVERNMENT."

SAVIMBI DECLARED THAT U.S. RECOGNITION WOULD NOT ALTER THE COURSE OF EVENTS IN ANGOLA. THE U.S., SAVIMBI SAID, NEEDS TO BE INFORMED ABOUT WHAT IS REALLY HAPPENING IN ANGOLA, AND VOWED TO INTENSIFY UNITA EFFORTS TO INFLUENCE AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION. REFERRING TO THE LEON DASH ARTICLES, SAVIMBI SAID, "AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST, WHO WAS WITH US FOR MORE THAN SEVEN MONTHS, DID A STUPENDOUS JOB OF REVEALING TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT THE DESTINY OF THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE HAS NOT BEEN DRAWN UP AND SEALED."

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PAGE 01 LISBON 08774 03 OF 03 160823Z  
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 3 OF 3 LISBON 8774

10. PORTUGUESE POLICY TOWARD ANGOLA: SAVIMBI DENOUNCED  
THE "COURTSHIP" BETWEEN THE LISBON AND LUANDA GOVERNMENTS,  
AND SAID THAT, IF PORTUGAL INTENDED TO BETRAY THE ANGOLAN  
PEOPLE A SECOND TIME, RECONCILIATION WOULD BE VERY  
DIFFICULT. UNITA HAD ACCEPTED AND FORGOTTEN WHAT  
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PAGE 02 LISBON 08774 03 OF 03 160823Z

HAPPENED BECAUSE OF THE ALVOR AGREEMENT, BECAUSE AT  
THAT TIME PORTUGAL DID NOT HAVE A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.  
UNITA WAS PAYING THE PRICE FOR ALVOR WITH ITS GUNS IN  
THE TRENCHES. BUT NOW THAT PORTUGAL HAS A DEMOCRATICALLY  
ELECTED PRESIDENT -- WHOM UNITA GREATLY RESPECTED -- TO  
SUPPORT THE MANEUVERS OF THE LUANDA GOVERNMENT WOULD BE  
INCONGRUENT WITH PORTUGUESE DEMOCRACY. SAVIMBI WAS  
AWARE THAT PORTUGAL IS NOW TRAINING HELICOPTER PILOTS  
FOR THE MPLA, THE THE GOP IS ASSISTING THE MPLA NAVY, AND THAT  
AN EFFORT WAS BEING MADE IN PORTUGAL TO RECRUIT MERCENARIES  
FOR THE MPLA. BUT THIS WOULD NOT ALTER THE ANGOLAN  
SITUATION, HE SAID: "UNITA CAN RESIST FOR YEARS  
AND YEARS." SAVIMBI CALLED ON THE GOP TO MAINTAIN  
CONTACT WITH ALL GROUPS INVOLVED IN ANGOLA.  
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11. COMMENT: SAVIMBI APPEARS CONFIDENT THAT TIME IS  
ON UNITA'S SIDE. HE APPEARS CONVINCED THAT ALL FACTIONS  
MUST EVENTUALLY COOPERATE, BUT IS ADAMANT IN HIS  
OPPOSITION TO TALKS WITH NETO. NOTABLY MISSING FROM  
SAVIMBI'S STATEMENTS IS THE IMPOSITION OF CONDITIONS  
FOR DIALOGUE; I.E. THE WITHDRAWAL OF CUBAN  
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## Message Attributes

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